

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
April 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

CISAC Members:

Tim Crothers	Brent Johnson	Tom Smith
Gina Darin	Ricky Lara	Katie Sutherland
Tom Getts	Shannon Lynch	Humberto Izquierdo
Stacy Hishinuma	Lori Nezhura	Martha Volkoff

CISAC Members Absent:

Ted Grosholz	Bea Nobua-Behrmann	Steve Schoenig
David Haviland	Danielle Ruiz	Helene Wright
Vicki Kramer		

Guests:

Claire Aicken	Tom Getts	David Morgan
Justin Aquino	Carrie Grace	Randall Oliver
Jonathan Babineau	Thomas Hafen	MacKenzie Patton
Jeana Cadby	Linda Haque	David Pegos
Jeffrey Caudill	Patrick Hoffman	Nick Rasmussen
Corin Choppin	Doug Johnson	Matthew Ribarich
Julie Clark	Jenny Ketterlin	Paul Rugman-Jones
Valerie Cook	Jordan Key	Ambika Saini
Cyndi Dawson	Sarah Mellor	Chris Scianni
Tracy Ellis	LeeAnne Mila	Koren Widdel
Angel Fong		

Opening:

The meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on April 17, 2024. Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Public Comments:

Shannon Lynch will be joining UC Davis as Plant Pathology Assistant Professor – Forest Pathologist. She continues to work on the Invasive Shot Hole Borer Pest prevention work. She is engaging with colleagues in Australia and South Africa to present the effects of the Invasive Shot hole borer in June.

Ricky Lara attended the first annual USDA National Forum on biocontrol and gave updates on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). He is organizing a program symposium for

the Entomological Society of America in the fall focused on providing methods for biodiversity conservation. He provided the update that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Biocontrol program turns 50 Years old, and they will be looking into planning a Fall symposium.

Tom Smith is working on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) with Ricky Lara and David Pegos. Currently dealing with Invasive Shot Hole Borer which is now in San Jose, getting closer to fruit and nut growing areas of that state. Tom shared he has been promoted to program lead for Forest Entomology and Pathology Program with CalFire.

Martha Volkoff informed the committee about the Department of Fish and Wildlife coordinating the upcoming CA Invasive Species Action Week in June to engage the public about invasive species and encourage the public to take action. Martha will serve as a California representative on the Western Regional Panel on aquatic nuisance species. The upcoming in-person meeting is scheduled for late October in Colorado, hosted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Martha also completed the draft for the New Zealand Mud Snail National Management Plan and asked for preliminary comments or informal input. She will provide an update once it has been accepted by the task force and goes for publication in the National Federal Register for the official comment period.

Humberto Izquierdo introduced himself to the committee as the recently appointed Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner. Humberto updated the committee that Yolo County will be receiving its own dog team by May.

Gina Darin discussed the Nutria eradication program affecting the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Brent Johnson gave an update on the listing of the Native White Bark Pine tree in the Rockies impacted by White Pine Blister Rust (non-native rust from Asia). California trees are safe for now. He is working with other agencies to find White Pine blister-resistant trees and develop plant materials based on their findings.

Tim Crothers provided an update that on March 14th and 15th he had two staff members take Shot Hole Borer Training in San Jose, mobilizing to assist organizations with Shot Hole Borer in that area. Shot Hole Borer treatments completed recently in the Deer Ranch area funded by Orange County Fire Authority.

Tom Getts provided updates that he is wrapping up extension workshops and getting ready for field season in Northeastern California. He received recent confirmation of herbicide-resistant Kochia in Modoc County. There are issues with grasshopper populations in Northeastern California, which is challenging for agricultural producers. The USDA Grasshopper/Cricket Warning program is not active in California, and people are thinking of starting to monitor grasshoppers due to growing populations.

Elizabeth Brusati reviews adaptive management plans submitted as part of the restoration plans by Delta Water Restoration (DWR) or others doing habitat restoration

in the Delta. She provided the update that the proposal process for the Delta Research awards (\$6 million available) is open from Delta Stewardship Council. The Letters of Intent are due May 14, full proposal due in August.

Ambika Saini introduced herself to the Committee.

David Pegos participated in the Bay Area travel show, Redding Sportsman's Expo, Highland Citrus Event, and additional events in impacted areas in San Bernardino and Riverside counties for Oriental fruit fly outreach and education. David will soon be attending the California Contract Cities and the Southern California Association of Governments events for the opportunity to educate elected officials about Invasive fruit flies.

David was appointed by Secretary Haaland, U.S. Interior Secretary, to the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee, and there will be a virtual meeting coming up on April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd. For October's National Invasive Advisory Committee meeting, David invited the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee members to come to California in light of the historic fruit fly eradication projects present in California.

Ricky Lara discussed the EAB trapping, and funding from the Office of Pesticide Consulting, for a proactive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) grant program. Those have been approved at the Federal level, working with CDFA to get permitting for conditional release in case EAB is detected. Using the funding Ricky has received to supplement the work David is doing with the counties and other partners to set up a line of defense for California against EAB.

David Pegos expressed why there is a concern with EAB. The infestation has been spotted in Portland, Oregon and we are concerned with it arriving in California. A collaborative effort is being put forth working with Ricky Lara, partnering with Tom Smith and others from CalFire for EAB detection. While Ricky is looking for bio-control agents, there are additional funds of \$180,000 through United States Forest Service (USFS) for statewide trapping alongside the border stations and I-5 Corridor. To expand into Southern California, David will be working with Kim Corella (CalFire), Chris Shogren (UCCE), and others to help with EAB traps in Southern California. To get a snapshot this year, the Exotic Wood Borer Survey will incorporate a couple of traps for EAB in each of the counties. Additionally worked on an agreement with USFS to work on the EAB Joint Action Plan.

Claire Aicken finished their CalFire grant for Invasive Shot Hole Borer and removed a total of 27 trees at 9 different locations.

Cyndi Dawson shared that there is active eradication work in San Diego Bay for an outbreak of Caulerpa. All the barriers have been placed now and are performing ongoing monitoring work there and headed in a good direction.

Dr. David Morgan, CDFA, recently trained two people from Cypress and Israel and they returned to their countries with biocontrol agents to set up bio control facilities to control issues with Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in those countries. He provided tours to representatives from Australia, South Africa, Spain, and Florida, attended the International Research Conference (IRC) on Huanglongbing (HLB) which is the disease ACP transmits. He has been invited to participate in a workshop in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa later in the year, giving a talk at the Sustainable Expo in San Luis Obispo.

Doug Johnson shared they have a broad network of open space groups and land trusts around the state. Working on a bill in the legislature right now, AB2509, which will define invasive species and IPM, and states Invasive Special Council of California and Advisory Committee will promote IPM as the approach to controlling invasive species.

Jenny Ketterlin help coordinate with Nutria and Aquatic Vegetation control efforts between refuges and other state partners working on similar efforts. Coordinating with the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT) in the San Diego Bay Wildlife Refuge on getting federal funding for Caulerpa eradication.

Linda Haque provided an update that the Master Gardeners of Ventura County are actively being trained on Shot Hole Borer. They are gearing up for fruit fly and Spotted Lantern Fly outreach.

Paul Rugman-Jones is doing foreign exploration work for natural enemies of ISHB, most recent efforts in Northern Thailand. Found substantial populations in mountainous areas in Shang Hai province. Parasites from that area in Thailand could be looked at to compare the genetic variation from Thailand to those found in Taiwan.

Randall Oliver provided an update on the ISHB in San Jose. He is supporting media events to promote outreach and education about tree pests and firewood practices. He attended the Bay Area Travel Show with David Pegos, Inter-tribal Earth Day, and Riverside Insect Festival. Events coming up will be the Bug Fair in LA History Museum and the Oxnard Insect Fair. Associate Hannah is doing rounds of participatory training online and in person. Currently working on Invasive Species Action Week coming up June 3rd-7th. Planning a small version ISHB symposium in mid-July. Working with the Firewood Taskforce to invigorate safe firewood practices.

Presentations

Nutria Eradication Update

Valerie Cook stated in March 2018 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) triggered the Incident Command System, temporarily redirecting staff and resources from across the state to implement an emergency response. In the fall of 2019 following general fund appropriations funding and several grants, CDFW switched over from an incident command system to a formal eradication plan with dedicated staff and resources. Since implementing the initial response, we have completed 1.8 million

acres, over 4,600 executed landowners permits, and deployed camera stations. They were able to access 10,000 parcels over 14 counties. Deployed 12,500 Nutria traps set, since 2017, 4,285 Nutria have been accounted for. Valerie presented that in 2023, began utilizing Nutria scat detector dogs in survey efforts. They will soon begin to test the next iteration of Satellite Telemetry Tags on sterilized Judas Nutria. Additionally, partnered with DWR to do eDNA/eRNA study to evaluate the efficacy of that tool applied in the field as part of the survey efforts.

Valerie stated that the State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways has eyes on the ground for potential Nutria sightings and works with us to treat aquatic invasive plants where infestations preclude us from deploying our surveying and trapping equipment or accessing our sites. The County Ag commissioners continue to advocate for program funding and reach out when there are Nutria reports to share. Lastly, the United States Department of Agriculture and U.S. Wildlife Services has continued to be a program cooperator for trapping support and now through detector dog survey efforts.

Impacts, Risks, and Management of Invasive Aquatic Vegetation (IAV) in Tidal Wetland Restoration Projects

Elizabeth presented that 27 million Californians rely on the Delta for a portion of their water. 750 animal and plant species and 55 fish species, many of which are threatened or endangered and some are invasive. The Delta faces a number of threats, including subsidence, salinity, sea level rise, rising water temperatures, and invasive species. The Delta Reform Act established two co-equal goals: a) providing a reliable water supply and b) protecting, restoring, and enhancing the ecosystem.

Gina stated that there is a need to have an adaptive approach to respond because each type of vegetation: Floating Aquatic Vegetation, Submersed Aquatic Vegetation, and Emergent Aquatic Vegetation have different monitoring needs, different tools, different control approaches, and different requirements. The increasing number of species and their diversity increases the challenge for land managers.

Invasive Aquatic Vegetation (IAV) control is restoration. The IAV reduces the area impacting the restoration projects designed for listed species such as fish. IAV can outcompete or shade our native vegetation, reducing ecological function. Millions of dollars go towards the restoration efforts, keeping the restoration sites functioning so the restoration investment is not wasted.

Jeff Caudill discussed Demonstration Investigation Zones (DIZ), which allow testing of new tools in small areas. Tools such as two herbicides and drones are more effective and less resource-intensive. It helps decrease herbicide resistance, increase efficacy, and allow for treatment in areas inaccessible by boat. DIZ promotes Adaptive Management and replaces fluoride with more effective herbicides. Another strategy is physical controls such as Bubble curtains or Benthic Mats.

CISAC Invasive Species Tour Survey

The Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) and the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee hosted three Invasive Species Tours in December 2023. The goals of the tours were to highlight and create a shared understanding of our Invasive Species Prevention System in California, including the challenges and successes of specific invasive species projects in different ecosystems throughout California. The survey seeks feedback on the invasive species tours, to help plan future CISAC events.

ISCC Funding Projects

David Pegos provided an update on the Invasive Species Council of California Funds.

ISCC Funding Projects			
Description	Funding	Status	Amount Remaining
Invasive Species Summit	\$118,750.00	Pending	-
Invasive Species Tours	\$136,562.50	Executed	\$130,451.90
ISCC/CISAC Operational Fund (travel, outreach booths, printing, business needs, reports, facilitation)	\$29,687.50	In progress	\$24,708.59
Living list and pathway prioritization	\$136,562.50	Pending	-
Fulltime support for ISCC/CISAC (Two year limited term position)	\$356,250.00	Executed	-
Reserve fund	\$682,812.50	In progress	-
Invasive Shot Hole Borer (PSHB, KSHB, MOB)	\$1,502,187.50	Executed	\$802,187.50
Volutaria San Diego Project	\$250,000.00	Executed	-
Statewide exotic wood borer survey	\$136,562.50	In progress	-
Statewide aquatic invasive survey	\$475,000.00	In progress	-
Yellow Star Thistle biocontrol incubators	\$59,375.00	Executed	-
Plant Right	\$296,875.00	Executed	-
Caulerpa prolifera	\$819,375.00	Pending	-
Totals	\$5,000,000.00		

Figure 1: ISCC Funding Projects

Update on Rearing a New Biocontrol Agent of Yellow Starthistle (YST)

Ricky Lara explained that Yellow Star Thistle is an Invasive plant in California. The areas affected are rangelands, pastures, croplands, roadside, natural and recreational areas. It displaces native vegetation, interferes with grazing, depletes water resources, and limits recreational land use. There is about 12 million acres are affected and up to 28 million remain susceptible. The new biocontrol agent, rosette weevil, has “no risk of larval damage to any native North American plant species.” The unique trait featured by the rosette weevil is that it feeds on the root crown and leaves in spring and can complement the action of other biocontrol agents.

The benefits to California for funding this are a) facilitate rearing and distribution of YST rosette weevil (stakeholders) b) lead to improved and sustainable YST suppression, c) protection of invaded and vulnerable habitats (value of \$ 40 million) d) strengthen national biological control of YST.

Ricky explained that future directions will include continuing rearing operations.

Opportunities will be explored to generate at least 2 generations per year (possibly using synthetic hormones). Currently working with partners on the possibility of creating a release site this year with the intention of using it as a collection site in the future.

Rapid Response Funding for Emerging Invasive Species Threats in California Application

David Pegos, CDFA, on behalf of the Invasive Species Council of California, was pleased to announce funding for rapid response to Emerging Invasive Species Threats in California. The purpose of this funding is to support immediate actions to contain and or eradicate invasive species before they become established and cause economic, ecological, or human health impacts. Priority shall be given to projects that minimize the economic, and ecological. And human health impacts caused by invasive species and restore and protect biodiversity and the ecosystem health.

The maximum funding award is \$100,000 per project. The minimum award is \$10,000 per project. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, and funding is subject to project need and the availability of the funding. CDFA reserves the right to offer an award different than the amount requested. The timeline of the project is contingent in the nature of the funded actions, not to exceed 12 months from the date funds are awarded. Additional details can be found on the application form.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 17th, 2024, at 10:00 am.